



Water Act Fact Sheet

- ◆ **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PIPELINES AND TELECOMMUNICATION LINES CROSSING A WATER BODY [Effective April 1, 2000 and Amended on April 1, 2001]**
 - ◆ **CODE OF PRACTICE FOR WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS [Effective May 1, 2000 and Amended on April 1, 2001]**
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What are Codes of Practice (Codes)?

- Codes regulate activities under the *Water Act* (the Act) that would normally require an approval to be obtained. The Codes set out the standards and conditions to be met to ensure the activity minimizes the disturbance and impact on the environment when undertaking or conducting the activities governed by the Codes.

What projects or developments are covered by Codes?

- The placement, construction, installation, maintenance, replacement, or removal of a pipeline or telecommunication line crossing a water body is regulated under the *Code of Practice for Pipelines and Telecommunication Lines Crossing a Water Body*. These projects are typically oil, gas, and water pipelines and telecommunication lines.
- The placement, construction, installation, maintenance, replacement, or removal of a watercourse crossing a water body must ensure their activities are in compliance with the *Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossing*. Watercourse crossings include culvert crossings, bridges, or other types of structures used to provide access through, across, or over a watercourse. The *Water (Ministerial) Regulation* sets out specific situations where certain watercourse crossings are exempt from the requirement of obtaining an approval. Where there are exemptions, Codes do not apply. Schedules 1 and 2 of the Regulation identify the exemptions where there is no need to apply for an approval or follow the Codes.

How do the Codes change or deviate from the current regulatory processes?

- The Codes identify the objectives and a number of standards and conditions to be met when undertaking the activities. Before Codes came into effect, the person responsible for the activity was required to obtain an approval.
- With the Codes in effect and upon notification to Alberta Environment, the activity may be undertaken without obtaining an approval. The activity must be carried out to comply with the objectives, standards, and conditions set out in the Codes. The person responsible has the duty to determine how best to achieve these objectives and standards.

Who enforces the Codes?

- The Codes fall within the Act and its Regulations. Alberta Environment is the government department responsible for the administration of the Act, and is responsible for its enforcement.

What are typical operating requirements under Codes?

- The person undertaking the activity under a COP must first complete a plan to meet the COP objectives and standards. The person then provides a notice to the department before undertaking the activity. Records and plans of the activity to be undertaken must be retained and made available when requested by the department.
- Compliance monitoring will be conducted by the department.

Do the Codes affect obligations and responsibilities under other legislative requirements?

- Compliance with Codes does not relieve a person of their obligations and responsibilities under other legislation. Regulatory approvals may be required under provincial legislation such as the *Public Lands Act*, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* or under federal legislation such as the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

How do I obtain a copy of the Codes and whom can I contact for more information on Codes?

- Copies of the two Codes are available in paper format from the Queen's Printer as well as in electronic format through the Queen's Printer Web page: <http://www.gov.ab.ca/qpp> [click on *Alberta's Legislation*]. The Codes and associated maps are also available through the Alberta Environment Web page.
- Information on the Codes can also be obtained through Alberta Environment's regional offices shown on page 2.

Submit notifications to your nearest regional office

Office of the Regional Support Manager
Natural Resources Service, NWB Region
Bag 900-5, Prov. Bldg.
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1T4
Telephone: (780) 624-6167
Fax: (780) 624-6335

Office of the Regional Support Manager
Natural Resources Service, NEB Region
111, 4999 – 98 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 2X3
Telephone: (780) 427-5296
Fax: (780) 422-0528

Office of the Regional Support Manager
Natural Resources Service, NES Region
52322 Golf Course Road
Stony Plain, Alberta T7Z 2K9
Telephone: (780) 963-6131
Fax: (780) 963-4651

Office of the Regional Support Manager
Natural Resources Service, Parkland Region
5th Floor, 4920 - 51 Street
Red Deer, Alberta T4N 6K8
Telephone: (403) 340-7654
Fax: (403) 340-7662

Office of the Regional Water Manager
Natural Resources Service, Bow Region
200, 3115 - 12 Street, NE
Calgary, Alberta T2J 7J2
Telephone: (403) 297-6582
Fax: (403) 297-2749

Office of the Regional Water Manager
Natural Resources Service, Prairie Region
200 – 5 Avenue, S, Prov. Bldg.
Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4L1
Telephone: (403) 382-4254
Fax: (403) 381-5337

